

Election of 1804
~~Press Coverage~~

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The 1864 Election

Press Coverage

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

The Daily Times.

Jersey City, N. J.,

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1864.

[The following editorial from Wednesday's TIMES is republished at the request of numbers of subscribers.]

Great Railroad Disaster.

We have to record the most extensive and fatal casualty ever known in this country. Yesterday morning at an early hour a very large train left Orange, N. J., en route for the White House, Washington, D. C., under the charge of chief engineer George B. McClellan. It was expected to make the trip through in twelve hours. The train was very heavily laden with merchandise shipped by a New York Jew house, August Belmont agent. All the copperheads in the country were passengers, besides a few innocent people who had been deluded into taking an excursion trip by the offer of dead-head tickets. Horatio Seymour of New York was the conductor assisted by Franklin Pierce, C. L. Vallandigham and Joel Parker. Ben. Wood was appointed to hold all the money received for fares and wore a hat hand marked conspicuously 4-11-44. For convenience and comfort the passengers were classified in the cars; the fogies under the charge of Robert C. Winthrop and Millard Fillmore; the short boys under John Van Buren and Captain Rynders, the mountebanks and minstrels led by Jack Rodgers and Marble, editor of the *World*, and the clergymen marshaled by the Very Reverends C. Chauncy Burr and H. J. Van Dyke. There were several cars that were intended to be attached to the train that did not make the connection—one from Canada, with George N. Sanders conductor, and a roomy one from New York, filled with Governor Seymour's "friends," were both detained by the unwarrantable interference of a man named Benjamin F. Butler, who came to New York last week to "stop a spell." The cars were gorgeously decorated with such elegant mottoes as the following:—"Butter has riz." "Abe Lincoln is a gorilla," "Little Mike's the b'y he jabsers," "Niggers for slaves, Irishmen for our masters," "We are coming brother Jeff." "Let us change our base," "Here's your spaulies for you Massa Davis." They moved out of the Orange depot gaily to the tune of Dixie, though the engineer hesitated, when the final moment of departure came, about stepping on the platform, and was at last only got on board by a little expedient of Fernando Wood, who pulled him into the train backwards by his coat tail. Engineer McClellan was dressed in the full rig of a Major General, for which his Uncle Sam paid. He was very nervous, and remarked that he should prefer a gunboat to a ride on such a locomotive. This engine was a new one, built at Chicago last August, but on a plan designed by Benedict Arnold, and subsequently improved by Aaron Burr and John C. Calhoun. It was built to the order of Jeff. Davis and bore the engaging name of "Cessionation," which was adopted as a slight change from the original designation "Secession." It occasioned a good deal of remark that hardly any soldiers took passage on the train. There were some men named Grant, Sherman, Hooker and Dix around, who very ungenerously expressed doubts as to the safety of the track and the ability of the engineer, and it is supposed this prejudiced the "blue coat" boys. Besides this, the conductor of the train refused to have an American flag on the engine, and the soldiers have a stubborn feeling of prejudice on that subject. Notwithstanding these slight drawbacks, the train moved off with the good wishes and cheers of all the rebel soldiers in Lee's army, all the British aristocrats, the pirate Semmes and his friends. From all that can be learned from the incoherent talk of the few survivors of the sad catastrophe, it appears that there was trouble from the very start. The engineer and his fireman Pendleton quarrelled all the trip, about the method of firing up, and the conductor and fare taker were constantly giving contradictory orders to the brakemen, and nervous conservative old gentlemen pulled frantically at the bell rope, giving engineer McClellan no end of trouble. Just how the accident happened no one can tell now,

but certain it is, that before the train got half way through, there was a shocking smash up. The locomotive exploded, the cars were piled up in fragments, the track torn up and such a multitude of passengers fatally injured that it is doubtful if their names can ever be ascertained. Some assert that an old Illinois joker, familiarly called Old Abe, caused the disaster by putting a rail on the track; others, that the fireman Pendleton let too much water out of the peace tank upon the fire in McClellan's boiler; others, that Vallandigham ran the train off the track by dropping an "O. A. K." stick of timber under the wheels; still others, that the engineer was frightened by suddenly discovering "a nigger in his wood pile" on the tender and overturned the locomotive by attempting to "change his base" too suddenly. Whatever the cause, there is no doubt of the complete wreck of the whole train, and the sad fate of the excursionists. There are but slight fragments of the more distinguished persons that are recognizable. Ben. Wood is missing altogether, except his 4-11-44 badge. Fernando was recognized by a copy of the statute of limitations in his trousers pocket; Horatio Seymour and Vallandigham were found locked in each other's arms and crushed under the weight of certain "dry goods boxes" that contained bogus soldiers votes; Governor Parker was badly bruised and lost his eyesight so that he "couldn't see it" any more; Pendleton was pitched headlong into a nasty ditch filled with secession mud, which choked him, and as for the engineer, he was blown so much higher than Gildero's kite and was so minutely pulverized that there is no ocular proof that any such man ever existed. The funeral of these excursionists will very soon, be attended in Richmond, Va., by Jeff. Davis and all his cabinet, and it is currently reported U. S. Grant may attend; not, however, as a mourner. There will be no more trains run on this road as the company being made bankrupt by this calamity will immediately wind up its affairs. The Union line is, however, in good running order.

POSTSCRIPT.

Since our first report a few additional facts of interest have come to light. Upon clearing away the wreck a little, one car marked New Jersey was found partially standing, but the south end of it was knocked into "smithereens." Jim Wall, when taken from under the platform badly injured, but his tongue still running, was heard to mutter that this was "a d—d sight worse than arbitrary arrest." Jack Rogers, was got out alive though a little hurt—and was frantically inquiring if Dan Holmann or any other friend had saved his silver quartet of a dollar for him! Friend Middleton was past all help, though Dr. Newell kindly offered his services, George feebly gasped out that he had "enough of that!" Every Jerseyman in the South end of the car had gone crazy from the effect of the concussion and raved about seeing *Starr's*. A lot of Gov. Seymour's "friends" from New York, who had got into the Jersey car, succeeded in pulling Gen. Wright out with comparatively little injury. A survey of the wreck of this car shows the utter impossibility of its ever being repaired or run again, and the fragments, together with a couple of rickety old platform cars labelled Delaware and Kentucky, which were not much damaged, are all that can be saved. These are to be given to Jim Brooks, who is expected to open a political junk shop where he will sell Know Nothing relics. McClellan badges, fragments of the platform, and such odds and ends for the benefit of the few survivors. Horatio Seymour lingered in very painful agony until last night, and though all the drugs in the *World* were crammed into him in the hope of saving his life, it was no use. Artemus Ward announces that he will write "a truthful account of Seymour's unprofitable life and his untimely and striking end," for the next show, and thinks it will "draw like a yoke of steers!" We cannot close this brief report without stating that it is said, that when that unfeeling old gorilla, "Oh! Abe, read our report in Wednesday's paper, he said it reminded him of a little joke, but when himself reminded that the funeral wasn't over yet, he said he guessed he wouldn't tell it till after the 4th of March next, which was likely to be an improving occasion.

'Free Press' Attacks

BY CHARLES N. WHEELER.

If history in these next two months should restage the war drama of September and October of 1864, President Roosevelt probably could add another oak leaf to his crown as the "great American dictator," after the votes are counted in November, although this is an off-year election.

That's what they called Lincoln, after he had ordered suppressed newspapers that had printed fake stories from Washington designed to belittle and discredit the war effort.

They did their lampooning on a grand scale right here in Chicago 78 years ago last Saturday when the appeasers and backseat drivers assembled in the Democratic national convention in the Wigwam, where Lincoln had been nominated four years before, and named Gen. George B. McClellan to unhorse the Emancipator.

Bitterly Attacked.

"Dictator" was one of the mildest of the epithets hurled at the President, not only in the convention but in the "free press" across the country. The incendiary attacks were especially lurid and violent in New York where the opposition had precipitated the bloody draft riots.

Perhaps never before in the nation's history had vilification of a President plumbed so low a level of venom and vulgarity.

His administration, they said, had been shot through with corruption, inefficiency and political favoritism.

His whole direction of the war effort, they were certain, had been bungled because he had ignored the military tacticians. Precious American lives had been sacrificed to his ignorance and obstinacy!

Called a "Gawk."

They attacked Lincoln's suspension of the habeas corpus writ as the act of a tyrant and a despot. He had ordered suppressed newspapers and other publications in violation, they said, of the very palladium of American liberties—a free press!

By "arbitrary" arrests he had thrown thousands into prison and had undermined the foundations of the Republic!

They attacked with billingsgate. He was a "gorilla," a "tyrant," a "usurper," a "buffoon," a "gawk" and ignorant backwoodsman!

The New York World, which earlier, and by Lincoln's order, had

been suppressed for two days and its editors listed for arrest, said of the Lincoln-Johnson ticket that had been nominated on June 8:

"The country is asked to consider the claims of the ignorant, boorish, third-rate backwoods lawyers. Such nominations in such a conjunction are an insult to the common sense of the people. God save the Republic!"

Convention Meets.

Another blast was that under President Lincoln there was an "age of rail-splitters, and tailors, of buffoons, boors and fanatics."

The language was exhausted in the search for uncouth assaults on his person as well as his conduct of the war.

The New York Herald called him a "ghoul."

In such an atmosphere the August, 1864, convention convened in the Wigwam at what is now the southeast corner of Lake st. and Wacker dr.

August Belmont, American front for the Rothschild and other international bankers (also exploiters), was chairman of the national committee. In calling the convention to order he said they proposed to rescue the country from the incompetents and see that "the Constitution and the laws" prevailed over "fanaticism and treason." Four years of "corruption and misrule" under Lincoln, he declared, had brought the country to the "very verge of ruin."

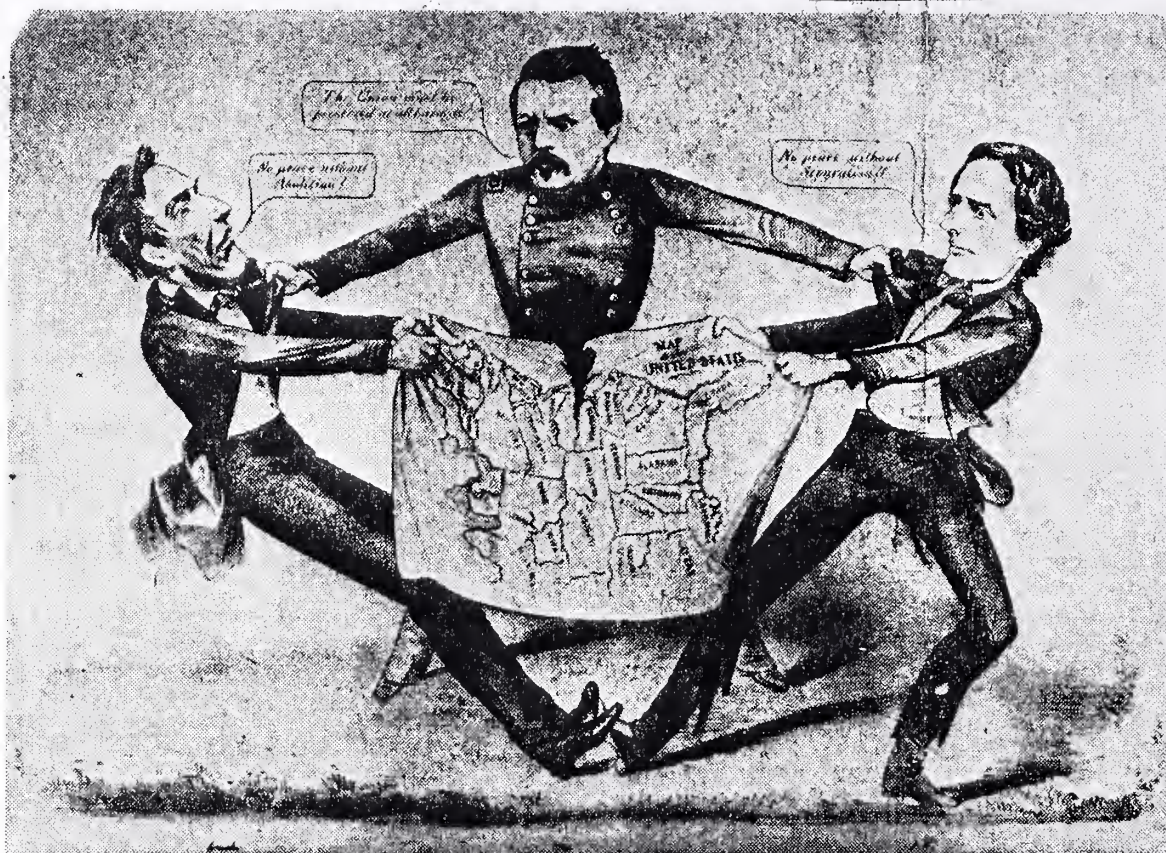
Times Leads Fight.

Wilbur Fish Storey, publisher and editor of the Chicago Times, was the leader of the more rabid Lincoln-haters of the North. Storey's rage was a veritable blitz, fantastic at times in its virulence and imbecilities. Lincoln's intervention saved him from a military trial and the suppression of his paper.

Incidentally, by suspending the habeas corpus writ, which act later was upheld by Congress, Lincoln paved the way for the issuance of many arbitrary citations, which enraged the "Constitutionalists" and those who saw red because, they said, the American way of life" was being placed in jeopardy.

It was estimated by one authority that during the war more than 38,000 "arbitrary" arrests were made.

Among those cited were the editors charged with having permitted publication of matter designed "to give aid and comfort to the enemy of the United States," and whose



One of the cartoons that was published during the Civil War. It shows Lincoln, McClellan, who had been removed by Lincoln as commander of the Army of the Potomac, and Jefferson Davis.

acts and words constituted "disloyal practices and discouraged enlistments."

While the common people, who never deserted him and knew he was neither a tyrant nor a despot, did everything to save the Union, the men in the Wigwam convention on that historic Aug. 29 rang the charges of "tyrant," "despot," "Caesar," and scores of other stupid flings, some of a vile nature.

Labeled "Horse Thief."

Storey displayed in the Times the more venomous of the assaults. He printed the ravings of C. Chauncey Burr, editor of the Old Guard, who called Lincoln a "horse thief."

Among others who appear to have thrilled Editor Storey was Delegate Stambaugh of Ohio, who pulled this one out of the Copperheads' sweet-smelling box:

"They might search hell over and they could not find a worse candidate than Abraham Lincoln."

Clement Laird Vallandigham, the

Ohio firebrand, was head of the Copperheads, sometimes called "Butternuts." Returning from exile in Canada, he plunged into anti-Lincoln activities, got control of the resolutions committee and wrote the main platform plank on the war that the convention adopted. It was an appeasement document, called for peace and flayed Lincoln for his suppression of civil liberties and war management.

Vallandigham Loses.

McClellan, who was bitter at Lincoln for having relieved him of command of the Army of the Potomac, repudiated the peace plank in his letter of acceptance and stood for the preservation of the Union.

Vallandigham also had good reason for hating Lincoln. He had opposed the war fanatically. He was a rabble-rouser of considerable ability, but went too far in his Dayton, Ohio, speech when he declared that Lincoln, Secretary of War

Stanton and Gen. Halleck should be arrested.

Gen. Burnside, whom Lincoln had relieved of command of the armies in Virginia after the disastrous Fredericksburg campaign, had been assigned to the command of the Ohio Department. He ordered Vallandigham's arrest, had him tried before a military court and sentenced to "close confinement" for the duration.

The maligned but patient Lincoln commuted the sentence to banishment "to the Confederacy." Vallandigham escaped to Canada and while there was nominated by the Democrats for governor of Ohio. After the 1863 election, in which he was soundly defeated, Vallandigham sneaked back into the States and was not molested.

Times Suppressed.

Shortly after Gen. Burnside nabbed the Ohio "Constitutionalist," Burnside ordered the suppression of Storey's Chicago Times.

Gen. Burnside ordered suppress-

sion of the Times because of its "repeated expression of disloyalty and incendiary sentiments." Union soldiers took possession of the plant on June 3, 1863, destroyed that day's issue and prohibited the issue of the following day. On Lincoln's revocation of Burnside's order, the Times reappeared on June 5.

It was in reply to the attacks on the President for having ordered the suppression of the New York World and other papers, after the suspension of the habeas corpus writ, that Lincoln wrote the famous statement:

"Must I shoot a simple-minded soldier boy who deserts, while I must not touch a hair of the wily agitator who induces him to desert?"

Vallandigham, Storey, the New York World snipers and others of that school were not believed by Lincoln's aids to be indulging solely in "constructive criticism." Their intransigence was generally considered political.

It is significant that during the entire eight months of 1864, and until a few days after the Democratic convention in August, Lincoln believed he would be defeated in November. Hardly any of the outstanding Republican national leaders had any hope of a victory.

Lincoln Gets Blame.

Many of his stalwart supporters of four years before had turned against Lincoln. He had had his troubles with the military heads and had personally ordered their removal. Meade had let Lee get away at Gettysburg. McClellan, brilliant but indecisive, had been in sight of the church spires of Richmond after Fair Oaks but had failed to press his advantage. Halleck had blundered terribly at Fredricksburg, and even Grant was not doing any too well in the Wilderness. The blame was showered on the sorrowing but firm man in the White House.

Before the Baltimore convention in June at which he was renominated even his cabinet members were secretly (and some not so secretly) hoping that someone else would be nominated. Secretary Chase, for one, had been approached and had seriously considered becoming a candidate. A secret cabal also was plotting for Grant's nomination.

Boss Thurlow Weed of New York, tried to beat Lincoln with Seward four years before in the

Chicago Wigwam, told Seward that the Republicans would lose in November with Lincoln renominated.

Opposition Grows.

Even the great Greeley wrote: "Lincoln already is beaten; he cannot be elected."

Wendell Phillips, most forceful orator of the Abolitionists, William Cullen Bryant, the poet, and Henry Ward Beecher turned against Lincoln.

Phillips wrote in a letter that he opposed Lincoln and hoped they could induce the President to withdraw. This was before the June convention.

In the previous off-year election the opposition, or "outs", had scored heavily. Horatio Seymour was elected Democratic governor of New York, and the Democrats made threatening gains in the lower house of Congress. (Seymour was permanent chairman of the convention that nominated McClellan and he assailed Lincoln and his record vehemently.)

Lincoln was cognizant of the plotting that was going on behind his back. He knew that Chase and his underground backers had some hope of winning the nomination.

To one of the party leaders Lincoln said:

"I have determined to shut my eyes, so far as possible, to everything of this sort. If he (Chase) becomes President, all right. I hope we may never have a worse man."

Fremont Nominated.

The extremists of the fanatical Lincoln-haters had met in Cleveland, May 31, eight days before the regular Republican convention, and nominated John C. Fremont, who had been the Republican party's first candidate for President in 1856. The whole platform could have been epitomized: "Down with Lincoln!"

Fremont announced that he would withdraw if someone other than Lincoln should be nominated at Baltimore the following week.

Believing that his chances were slim, Lincoln had made a secret memorandum in which he wrote, with fine magnanimity, that he would co-operate with the President-elect to "save the Union between the election and the inauguration." That was one purpose he never abandoned—to save the Union! It is in this light that what appeared in some of his early de-

bates as compromises on the slavery question should be read.

Such was the gloomy outlook for the Illinois "man of the people" up to a few days after the August convention of the Democrats.

Then the dream began to dissolve into reality. The leaden clouds quickly scudded away, as though a fairy wand had swept all horizons.

Capitol Saved.

The names that sent a thrill across the country in September and October were:

Farragut at Mobile Bay!

Sherman at Atlanta!

Sheridan and his "scorched earth" dash down the Shenandoah!

The Capitol was safe. Early and his raiders were outsmarted.

Grant was getting ready for the pincer movement south of Richmond.

The beginning of the end of the fratricidal struggle was in sight.

Hysterical rejoicing swept the entire North, and from every hamlet and most of the hearthstone went up the fervent prayer of gratitude.

"Thank God for Lincoln."

Public opinion, so fickle over the bloody years, crystallized in a tidal wave of support for the President, and he nailed it down with that homely epigram about "swapping horses in the middle of the stream."

McClellan Routed.

Fremont retired from the race. From scores of platforms the Lincoln orators asked:

"Is the war a failure?"

The common people, who trusted him and followed him without faltering, sent back a mighty "No!"

The election a few days later was a rout for the McClellan forces. Lincoln carried all the Union states except New Jersey, Delaware and Kentucky. He received 212 electoral votes to McClellan's 21.

Many parallels, no doubt, can be drawn in considering President Roosevelt's present task in coordinating the tremendous efforts and getting the war machine operating at maximum efficiency, which took Lincoln four years of sweat and tears.

But the one vital parallel, perhaps, is yet to be supplied—a couple of smashing victories—preferably second front of such proportions and victories that the end will be in sight, as it was when the news came from Mobile and Atlanta and the seared Shenandoah.

He might do it.

LINCOLN LORE

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PAMPHLET PRINTED IN PRESIDENT'S SECOND INAUGURAL PARADE

Occasionally there comes to light a Lincoln item that is greatly enhanced in value through association with a historical episode. It was with some degree of interest that the editor of *Lincoln Lore* observed on the caption of a recently acquired, four page, 8 x 10, pamphlet, entitled *Chronicle Junior*, this interesting citation, "Printed in the Inauguration Procession of Lincoln and Johnson."

In scanning through the contents of the bulletin for further facts supporting the statement about the place and time the pamphlet was printed, it was observed that in the listed order of exhibits in the inaugural procession there was included a notation, "The Washington Press." This discovery led the editor of *Lincoln Lore* on his next visit to Washington to search for some detailed description of the float sponsored by the press.

The Washington Intelligencer, for March 8, 1865, gave quite a complete description of the parade, and in the line of march the various features were described. Immediately following the notice of the position in the parade of the Mt. Pleasant Hospital Band, there appeared this description, "Wagon of Hope Dispatch Co. with a printing press under a canopy of flags drawn by six bay horses." This notice supported the statement that there was a printing press apparently in operation during the parade.

It might be of interest to copy the complete formation of the parade as printed in *Chronicle Junior*.

The Marshal-in-Chief, aides.

The Military Escort.

The President of the United States.

His Private Secretary, with the Marshal of the District of Columbia and his Deputies on right and left.

Ex-Presidents.

The Vice President and Vice President Elect.

The Cabinet.

The Corps Diplomatique.

The Judiciary.

Senators and Representatives.

Ex-Senators and Representatives.

Heads of Bureaus and Assistants.

Officers and Soldiers of the Revolution, and of the War of 1812.

The National Union College Band.

The National Union Executive Committee.

The National Executive Committee of Loyal Leagues.

State and City Authorities.

The Lincoln and Johnson Clubs, with car, etc.

State Organizations.

East Washington Lincoln and Johnson Club with Monitor, etc.

Fire Organizations.

The Washington Press.

Officers of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Militia.

Detachment of the United States Marine Corps.

Detachment of the 1st Brigade of Quartermaster Volunteers.

Other Military Organizations.

Giesboro's Cavalcade.

Turner Associations of Washington and Georgetown.

Odd Fellows and other Benevolent Associations.

Following the printing of the parade arrangement, the names of those marshals, appointed to represent the various states, appear, also the names of the fourteen aides and one-hundred and eleven marshals who were to serve as deputies. This corps was also augmented by thirteen United States marshals and twenty citizen aides. One of the most interesting paragraphs in *Chronicle Junior* is the description of the Regalia to be used in identifying these various groups of mounted aides and marshals. The description follows:

"The following regalia is prescribed for the occasion: The marshal-in-chief

will be designated by an orange-colored scarf with white rosettes, and blue saddle-cloth with gilt trimmings. His aides, thirteen in number, will wear cherry-colored scarfs with white rosettes, their saddle-cloths will be white, trimmed with blue. The marshal-in-chief and his aides will wear yellow gauntlets, and use blue batons two feet in length, with gilt ends two inches deep.

"The marshals will be designated by blue scarfs with white rosettes, white saddle-cloths trimmed with red, white gloves, and pink colored batons, with white ends two inches deep.

"The marshals representing States and Territories will be designated by white scarfs with blue rosettes, with saddle-cloths trimmed with red, white gloves, and white batons two feet long, with pink ends two inches deep.

"The marshal-in-chief, the aides, and the marshals will wear common black hats, black frock-coats, and black pantaloons."

One wonders where so many horses might be discovered in Washington, now, outside the mounts of the United States Army, to seat these two-hundred aides and marshals.

The front page of the *Chronicle Junior* is printed in red ink and the rest of the pamphlet in black ink. The entire first page is taken up by "An Inaugural Poem," consisting of thirteen, six line stanzas from which two stanzas are selected. The author is not named.

* * * *

Now as the President ascends
Yon marble flight, and lowly bends
Before the majesty of the laws,
And vows to serve his country's cause,
Nothing but victory for the Union
Will gladden all that vast communion.

* * * *

Oh! History, with thy impartial pen,
Tell us in what age of godlike men
Hast thou been ever called to write
A page so wondrous and so bright?
Where is the struggle that can equal
That of which today's the sequel?



Lincoln Lore

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The Presidential Election — 1864

Editor's Note: To read the comments concerning the results of the Presidential election of 1864, which appeared in three of the leading magazines at that day, one is cognizant that the problems of government in 1864 do not appear much different from those of 1972. The editors wrote of "fierce excitements, jealousies and party wrangling" in the Presidential campaign, of "the moral effect of the election both at home and abroad," and how "it shows our foreign enemies that they have nothing to hope from the division of this country," that while there is a desire for "a cessation of hostilities" and "negotiations for peace," there is an "inflexible prosecution of this war" which is the "policy of the administration."

That this contest was "the most critical ordeal of a national election" and that the "lesson of the election is that every Constitutional Act and law must be absolutely respected" and that it should be the duty of citizens to "recognize that law is the indispensable condition of liberty."

R. G. M.

The Presidential election of 1864 occasioned considerable comment in *Harper's Weekly*, *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* and *The Illustrated London News*. However, the results of the election of November 8, 1864 were not treated by those magazines as news releases.

The issue of *Harper's* dated November 12th did not carry the election results as that number came from the press in advance of its date which was before election day. However, the above issue did carry a double page spread by Thomas Nast which featured "Election-Day, 8th November, 1864." The pro-Lincoln vignettes depicted the allegorical figure of Liberty voting for Lincoln and Union, Soldiers Mailing Their Votes, The Veteran's Vote and Citizens Voting.

It was the November 19th issue of *Harper's* that carried on the editorial page the first announcement to its readers that Lincoln was re-elected.

The Election.

"Abraham Lincoln and Andrew Johnson have been elected, by enormous and universal majorities in almost all the States, President and Vice-President of the United States for the next four years. This result is the proclamation of the American people that they are not conquered; that the rebellion is not successful; and that, deeply as they deplore war and its inevitable suffering and loss, yet they have no choice between war and national ruin, and must therefore fight on. In an unfortunate moment for himself General McClellan permitted his name to be used as the symbol of the cowardice and subjugation of his fellow-citizens, and from that moment his defeat was a foregone conclusion.

"The moral effect of the election both at home and abroad will be of the most impressive character. It shows our foreign enemies that they have nothing to hope from the divisions of this country, while the rebels will see in it the withering and invincible purpose of their loyal fellow-citizens, who ask of them nothing but obedience to the Constitution of the United States, and the laws and acts made in pursuance of it. Whenever they shall choose to overthrow the military despotism that holds them fast—whenever they shall see that no great section of this country can, under equal

and respected laws, have any permanent and profound interest different from all the rest — then they will find that the loyal men of the country are longing to throw down their arms and cement a Union that shall be eternal.

"But the lesson of the election is, that every constitutional act and law must be absolutely respected. There must be no threats, no revolts, and no hope of extorting terms by arms. The Constitution is the sole condition of the Government; and if citizens differ as to what is constitutional, that difference must be peacefully and constitutionally settled.

This is what the people have declared by four years of war, and this is what they confirm by the re-election of Mr. Lincoln.

In himself, notwithstanding his unwearied patience, perfect fidelity, and remarkable sagacity, he is unimportant; but as the representative of the feeling and purpose of the American people he is the most important fact in the world.

"One other of the most significant lessons of the election is, that the people are conscious of the power and force of their own Government. They expect the utmost vigor in the prosecution of the war by every legitimate method, and they naturally require that the authority of the Government, which is to be established by the continuance of the war, shall not be endangered by its end. When the authority of any Government is openly and forcibly defied it must be maintained unconditionally by arms. When that authority is established and unquestioned, every wise Government will be friendly, patient, conciliatory, but firm and just.

FRANK LESLIE'S ILLUSTRATED NEWSPAPER.



JEFF DAVIS'S NOVEMBER NIGHTMARE.

From *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper*, December 3, 1864.

effort to save the common country; and, while expressing his gratitude to Almighty God for directing the mind of the country to what he considered a right conclusion, he added that it afforded no satisfaction to think any other man might have been disappointed by the result."

Note: Slightly more than 4 million votes were cast in the 1864 Presidential election. Lincoln got approximately 400,000 votes more than McClellan. Percentage-wise Lincoln received about 55% of the popular vote. Lincoln carried every state in the Union except Delaware, New Jersey and Kentucky with 234 electoral votes. McClellan received 21 electoral votes.

The Fourth of March

Editor's Note: The editors of Harper's Weekly, March 11, 1865, published a lead editorial entitled "The Fourth Of March," and the following week, March 18, 1865, their lead editorial was entitled "The Inaugural Address." The editorial writer or writers was/were very enthusiastic about Lincoln's re-election and there was nothing but praise for the topics covered (and not covered) in the Inaugural Address.

R. G. M.

The Fourth Of March.

"On this day President Lincoln enters upon his second term amidst the benedictions of the loyal citizens of the United States. No man in any office at any period of our history has been so tried as he, and no man has ever shown himself more faithful to a great duty. His temperament, his singular sagacity, his inflexible honesty, his patient persistence, his clear comprehension of the scope of the war and of the character and purpose of the American people, have not only enabled him to guide the country safely in its most perilous hour, but have endeared him forever to the popular heart.

"Party hate has dashed itself to pieces against his spotless patriotism. Friendly impatience has long since hushed its hot criticism. Foreign skepticism and affected contempt at length recognize in him a purely characteristic representative of that America which conquers by good sense and moral fidelity. The history of the first term of his administration is the story of a desperate and prodigious civil war waged over a continent, and revealing the unprecedented power of a Government founded upon the popular will.

"Such a war necessarily clothes the chief executive magistrate with extraordinary power. Yet it is the most significant tribute to the character of Mr. Lincoln that his exercise of that power has been so temperate and so purely patriotic that after four years' experience of it parties crumble away, and he is continued in his high office by the hearty confidence of the vast body of the people.

"And that he is to-day inaugurated amidst universal applause, that the nation has not been deluded by the vehement party assaults which every civil war makes so practicable and specious, but has known and approved a man so just and faithful, is the noblest proof of the truly conservative character of that popular Government with which the name of Abraham Lincoln will henceforth be associated."

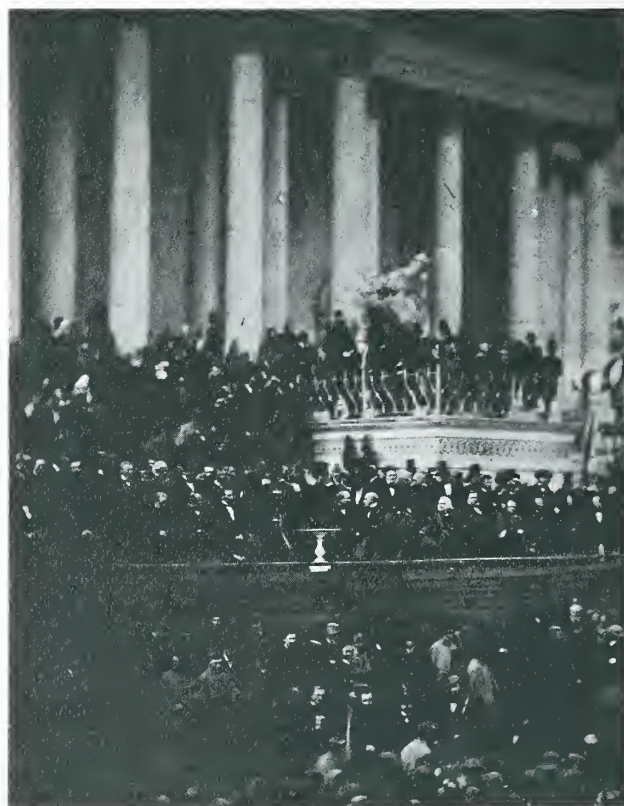
The Inaugural Address.

"The inaugural address of the President is characteristically simple and solemn. He neither speculates, nor prophesies, nor sentimentalizes. Four years have revealed to every mind the ghastly truth that the Government of the United States is struggling in a death-grapple with slavery; and as a new epoch of the Government opens in civil war, its Chief Magistrate states the vital point of the contest, and invokes God's blessing upon the effort of the country to finish its work in triumph. With a certain grand and quaint vigor, unprecedented in modern politics, the President says: 'Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may soon pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid with another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so, still it must be said: "The judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether."'

"We are especially glad that the inaugural does not, as the New York Tribune wishes it did, 'appeal to the rebels for a cessation of hostilities as pleadingly as its

prototype (the first inaugural) urged forbearance from beginning them.' Such a tone would have been neither politic nor humane. When the President speaks of 'the progress of our arms upon which all else chiefly depends,' every man is reminded of the peace-history of the last year, and of the terms which have been constantly repeated, and which are perfectly well known to the rebels and to the world. Those terms are unconditional submission to the laws of the United States.

"We are equally glad that the President indulges in no observations upon Mexico, England, France, and things in general. He was taking the oath to continue the work in which his conduct has so satisfied the country that he is continued in his office by general assent. With a fine sense of propriety he says, in the gravest and most impressive way, that he accepts the trust and prays for strength to do his duty. And all true American hearts say, Amen!"



(0-122) Lloyd Ostendorf—Western Reserve Historical Society.

Photograph of Lincoln's Second Inaugural made by Alexander Gardner on Saturday, March 4, 1865. This newly discovered photograph appears to be the only one of the series (0-105, 0-106 and 0-108) to bear the A. Gardner, 511 Seventh St., Washington, D. C. imprint.

Numistamps

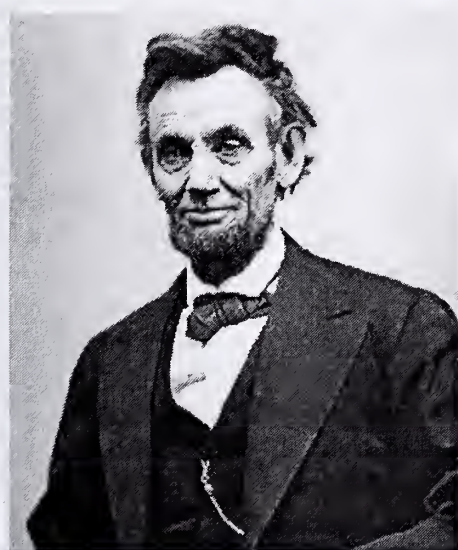
Numistamp is a newly coined word to describe a replica, United States coin manufactured in the form of a plaquette, having the appearance of a large (1 3/8" x 2 1/4") postage stamp. Each plaquette is struck in metal closely identified with that of the coin it portrays, but avoids any composition that could encourage misuse of the coin impression.

Three of the United States Numistamps acquired by the Foundation are of the small cent series, namely, the one cent dated 1909, the war-time steel cent issued in 1943 and the newly designed cent issued in 1959. The obverse and reverse of all three coins are shown on each plaquette.

This series is produced with the knowledge and consent of the General Counsel for the United States Department of the Treasury, and all dies are destroyed upon completion of a limited edition of 4,000 serially numbered pieces in each series.

Abraham Lincoln's Corrupt Bargain

Posted by [klkatz](#) April 27, 2007 20:59PM



James Gordon Bennett, was the founder, editor and publisher of the New York *Herald* from 1835 until 1866 when the reigns were handed to his son.

Though Bennett will tell you that his newspaper was officially independent, he made it well known that he opposed Abraham Lincoln.

Consider this excerpt from an 1864 Herald, editorial:

President Lincoln is a joke incarnated. His election was a very sorry joke. The idea that such a man as he should be President of such a country as this is a very ridiculous joke. . . His inaugural address was a joke, since it was full of promises which he has never performed. His Cabinet is and always has been a standing joke. All his State papers are jokes. . . His intrigues to secure a renomination and the hopes he appears to entertain of a re-election are, however, the most laughable jokes of all.

Surely, first amendment rights take precedent, but allowing this in the paper is hardly the act of an 'independent' newspaper.

To win the 1864 nomination, Lincoln needed to win New York and needed support from Bennett and the Herald in order to do that. So Lincoln did what any good politician would do... he asked Bennett to name his price. Bribery? From Lincoln? This can't be...

Bennett, a newspaper tycoon, didn't need the money and simply wanted "attention" and "recognition".

A newspaperman before anything else, Bennett agreed to give Lincoln's administration "a thorough exposition in the columns of the Herald," provided that Lincoln and his advisers "occasionally... make known to him [their] plans."

It's important to note that the Herald was known for lacking in morals and respectability and Bennett was barred from polite New York society because he was "too pitchy to touch".

Lincoln, needing the votes, appointed the totally unqualified Bennett as minister to France. Bennett, who wanted the social recognition, accepted the position.

The bargain was done. The Herald no longer criticized the President, and New York's 33 Electoral Votes went to Lincoln.

Bibliography: Donald, David. *Lincoln Reconsidered*. 2nd ed. New York: Alfred a. Knopf, Inc., 1956. 74-75.

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Comments

